

## County of Los Angeles CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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Fifth District

October 28, 2005

To:

Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair

Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From:

David E. Janssen G

Chief Administrative Officer

PRESS CONFERENCE FOR NOVEMBER 17, 2005 LOS ANGELES COUNTY OPERATIONAL AREA EMERGENCY EXERCISE PROGRAM, OPERATION CHIMERA

I want to invite you to attend an important field exercise and press conference the County is jointly conducting with the City of Los Angeles as part of the County's 2005 *Operation Chimera* exercise program. This exercise will include a **Press Conference on Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Sports Arena in Los Angeles. You are welcome to give remarks during the Press Conference.

The purpose of this exercise is to assess the County's plans to respond to a bioterrorism attack, specifically aerosolized anthrax. The Department of Health Services will open a simulated Receipt, Stage, and Store (RSS) Warehouse and Point of Dispensing (POD) site during the exercise. Such sites would store and distribute medications to the public in the case of a widespread bioterrorism event.

The goal of the Press Conference is to share a common message of preparedness and readiness. In the wake of the devastating disasters that our nation has faced in recent weeks, it is especially important that we reassure the residents of Los Angeles County that we are prepared and have plans in place to respond to a major emergency. It is also important that the public knows that we have trained personnel that will work together in the face of any disaster to minimize loss of life and property, and recover quickly.

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The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is contacting each Board Office Press Deputy to determine your interest and availability to participate in the November 17, 2005 exercise press conference.

If you have questions, please contact Constance Perett, OEM Administrator, at (323) 980-2261, or lan Whyte, Exercise Program Manager, at (323) 980-2253.

DEJ:CP JH:cm/aec

c: Board Emergency Preparedness Deputies Board Press Deputies Judy Hammond